

ABSTRACT
DISTRIBUTED VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Apparatus for providing a client/server based virtual environment wherein

5 each entity in the virtual environment is represented as a plurality of associated models of the entity, each of said plurality of models relating to a particular aspect of the entity. The apparatus comprises a server implemented rule model manager (20) arranged to provide conceptual models of the entities in the virtual environment, a server implemented dynamic model manager (22) arranged to

10 provide a dynamic model of at least some of the entities in the virtual environment, and clients (24), each client being arranged to provide a visual model of at least one of the entities in the virtual environment. The apparatus also has communication channels for transmitting messages between the rule model manager (20), the dynamic model manager (22) and the clients (24) to ensure

15 consistency.

Figure 2

SECRET & TECHNICAL